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CRICKLADE AND WOOTTON BASSETT

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R ' S R E P O R T

For the year ended 31st December, 1942.

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With compliments

Wootton Bassett, Wilts.

August, 1943.

To: The Cricklade & Wootton Bassett Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following is an abbreviated report on the health of the population and the sanitary condition of the district for the year 1942.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres)	45,948
Population	13,130
Number of inhabited houses	3,440
Rateable Value	56,237
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ...	£232

Birth Rate

233 births were registered, 120 male and 113 female, of which 220 were legitimate and 13 illegitimate. There were 11 still births.

Birth Rate 17.75

Death Rate.

130 deaths were registered in the district, 77 males and 53 females. 18 were registered as dying from some form of Cancer, 27 from diseases of the Heart, 7 from Respiratory Diseases, and 49 from intra-cranial, Heart Disease or other vascular lesions. One death occurred from Diphtheria. There were none from Puerperal Sepsis.

Death Rate 9.90

Infantile Mortality

There were 9 deaths of children under 1 year of age.

Rate per 1,000 births 38.63

Infectious Disease

I am glad to report a very low incidence of Infectious Disease during the year, only 11 cases of Scarlatina and 8 of Diphtheria being notified. Whooping cough and measles were prevalent in the district, 42 cases of the former being notified. 18 cases of Pneumonia were reported and 3 of Puerperal Sepsis.

The year was perhaps outstanding as the result of 3 cases of Smallpox being notified in Swindon. As the result of the prompt measures taken by Dr.Roberts, Medical Officer of Health of Swindon, the outbreak was confined to these 3 cases. He ordered mass vaccination of the population, and many thousands of people were successfully protected by this means. In this Rural District a figure of some thousands was also vaccinated. The number of adults and children found unvaccinated and thus unprotected was eloquent testimony to the deplorable state of vaccination in this part of the county.

Tuberculosis

23 cases of this disease were notified during the year,

8 of which were of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. There were 5 deaths registered as dying from Tuberculous disease.

Water Supply.

This has again proved adequate during the year, and samples from the public supply at all times proved satisfactory.

Drainage

The systems at Cootton Bassett, Cricklade and Purton continue to prove satisfactory.

Milk

A total of 316 inspections were carried out during the year, aAgreat increase on the number for the past two years. This is due to an additional Inspector being available as the result of your Assistant Sanitary Inspector now being fully employed in his normal duties, being released from his work as Assistant Billeting Officer.

Meat

You will note the large amount of work undertaken by your Sanitary Inspector, whose figures speak for themselves.

Salvage

The total weight of salvage collected during the year was 242 tons, an increase of over 200% The amount sold was 209 tons, bringing in a sum of £1077, of which the sale of salvage paper alone produced £697. The greatest credit is due to your Sanitary Inspector for his admirable work in the administration of the Salvage service.

I append the report of your Sanitary Inspector.

I have the honour to remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Council Offices,
Wootton Bassett, Wilts.

28th July, 1943.

To:
Dr.J.N.Watson, Medical Officer of Health, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett Rural District Council.

Sir,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1942.

Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(a) By the Local Authority	nil
(b) By other bodies or persons ...	nil

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year.

(1)(a) Number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	39
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	127
(2)(a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under The Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	1
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwellinghouses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	33

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	19

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

Proceedings under Public Health Acts -

(a) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	1
(b) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(i) By owners	2
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil

4. Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding.

Number of cases of overcrowding discovered during the year	2
Number of cases of overcrowding abated during the year	2
Number of visits made re overcrowding	11

5. Public Health Acts, 1875 and 1936.

Nuisances

Number of nuisances discovered	44
" " " abated	41
" " inspections made	155

Verminous Houses.

Number of verminous houses discovered	3
" " " " cleared of vermin	3
" " visits made ...	8

Scabies

Number of houses disinfested	5
" " visits re Scabies	15

Drainage

Number of inspections re drainage	29

Water Supplies

Number of water samples taken and submitted for analysis:

	Public Supplies	Private Supplies	Total
Chemical	1	-	1
Chemical and partial bacteriological		1	1
Bacteriological	6	7	13
	7	8	15

Results of the above samples:

	Unfit for drinking purposes.	Fit for drinking purposes.
Public Supplies		
Chemical		1
Bacteriological		6
Private Supplies.		
Chemical and partial bacteriological		1
Bacteriological	4	3

Number of visits made re water supplies	[illegible]
In connection with public supplies	12
" " " private "	25

Number of water connections made to houses from a water main as the result of informal notices	1

Bathing Pool

A water sample taken from a pool used for bathing purposes proved the water to be suitable for bathing.

Inspection and supervision of Food.

Milk.

Number of Dairies on Register	325
" " inspections	316
" " Pasteurising plants	1
" " samples of Pasteurised Milk taken	10

All the samples of Pasteurised Milk proved that the milk had been adequately pasteurised.

An application made by factors dealing with liquid milk for a licence to pasteurise milk was refused owing to the unsatisfactory condition of their pasteurisation plant.

Meat

All slaughtering of animals for human food is carried out at a slaughterhouse under the control of the Ministry of Food.

Number of visits to and inspections made at the above slaughterhouse 284

The carcase and organs of every animal killed for human consumption in the district were examined.

I should like to bring to your notice the fact that since 1940, approximately ninety per cent examination of meat during the summer months has been carried out outside of normal working hours.

	Cattle	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Total
No.of animals killed	1	15,190	12	165	15,368
No.of carcases inspected	1	15,190	12	165	15,368
No.of carcases condemned	-	25	1	2	28

Details and weight of condemned meat.

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Veal		11	2	23
Bacon and Pork		1	-	10
Mutton and Lamb			3	27
Offal		9	3	3
	1	3	2	7

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Percentage of the total of condemned meat.
Condemned for diseases other than Tuberculosis	12	3	12		54.57
Condemned for Tuberculosis	10	2	23		45.43

Other Food.

Details of tinned and other food condemned during the year are as follows:

	Tins
Pork Luncheon Meat	17
Chopped Ham	8
Pork Sausage Meat ...	8
Party Loaf	2
Prem	3
Meat Roll	7
Tinned Tongue	1
Pilchards	18
Herrings	1
Salmon Spread	1
Tomatoes	6
Peas	16
Pea Soup	1
Baked Beans	1
Windsor Soup	2
Apple Pulp	1
Evaporated Milk	5
	98

	Lbs.
Butter	70¾
Tomatoes	71
	141¾

All the condemned tinned and other foods were utilised for animal feeding.

No. of visits to food premises 27

Knackers Yards.

There is only one Knacker's Yard in the district. No use was made of these premises throughout the year.

Factories Act.

No. of factories on register	56
" " inspections made	22
" " notices served	5
" " " complied with	4

Infectious Diseases.

No. of rooms disinfected	12
" " visits re infectious diseases ...	59

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Five licences to use land as sites for moveable dwellings were issued during the year. No nuisances were created on these sites.

No. of visits re tents, vans and sheds 26

Public Cleansing and Salvage.

Refuse is deposited at tips in the parishes of Ashton Keynes, Cricklade and Wootton Bassett. Scavenging is carried out by direct labour. Collections of salvageable waste materials are made from nearly every house in the district, there being two collections per month in the parishes of Ashton Keynes, Cricklade, Purton and Wootton Bassett, and one collection per month in the remainder of the district.

Cost of refuse and salvage collections	£1,384. 17s. 3d.
Receipts - refuse and salvage	£1,088. 0s. 8d.
Cost of refuse and salvage collection to General Rate Fund	296. 16s. 7d.
Running cost of refuse lorry per mile	6.1633d
Miles per gallon	8.19

Salvageable Materials

	Collected during the year.		Sold		Receipts from sales.		
	Tons	cwts.	Tons	cwts.	£.	s.	d
Waste Paper	106	8	105	18	697.	9.	10
Scrap iron and tins	102	18	68	19	89.	3.	1
Non-ferrous metals		19	1	10	39.	9.	4
Rags and bagging	13	8	13	13	187	4	4
Bones	7	18	8	8	34.	12.	11
Bottles and jars		10		-		-	
Rubber	10	6	10	16	29.	4.	10
	242	7	209	4	1077.	4.	4

Miscellaneous receipts not being from sale of salvageable materials	£10.16. 4
No. of visits re refuse collection and salvage	519

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

On receipt of complaint of rat infestation at three premises, baiting was carried out with success. I am pleased to report that the refuse tips have not caused trouble by rat infestation, owing to the good work carried out by the rat catcher employed by the Council.

No. of visits made under the above Act 13

Petroleum Acts.

No. of Licences issued to store petroleum	37
" " " " " " carbide	4
" " " " " " petroleum and carbide	4
" " visits re storage of petroleum and carbide	21

Petroleum is stored in underground tanks at all places excepting one.

....

265 visits were made during the year in connection with matters pertaining to A.R.P. and Civil Defence.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

C.E.JAMES.

Sanitary Inspector.